EXPLANATORY OF ACT TO CONTINUE HALF PAY TO CERTAIN WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

[To accompany Joint Resolution No. 14.]

May 4, 1860.

Mr. Potter, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred a joint resolution explanatory of the act entitled "An act to continue half pay to certain vidows and orphans, passed February 3, 1853," have had the same under consideration and submit the following report:

That the second section of the act of Congress, approved February 3, 1853, provides as follows: "That the widows of all officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, of the revolutionary war, who were married subsequent to January, A. D. eighteen hundred, shall be entitled to a pension, in the same manner as those who were married before that date."

Your committee have no doubt that it was the intention of Congress in passing said act, to grant pensions to the widows in said section described, from the 4th day of March, 1848, under the law existing and in force at the time of the passage of the act of February 3, 1853; and such is the construction of said section by the Court of Claims in the case of Jane Smith.

Your committee entertaining these views, are of the opinion that the construction given to the second section of the act of February 3, 1853, by the Court of Claims is the just construction, and therefore report back said resolution with the recommendation that it do pass. the and discourse unity continuously submit in planting we-